

Applicant : Mercier et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were pending. The applicant canceled claims 1-22 without prejudice and added new claims 23-45, of which claims 23, 31, 39, and 40 are in independent form. Support for the independent claims can be found at least at: FIG. 1; FIG. 4; page 11, lines 9-28; page 12, line 27 through page 13, line 9; page 4, lines 6-11; and page 4, lines 17-19. The applicant respectfully requests that all claims be examined in view of the amendment.

Please apply excess claims fees of \$50.00 and any other appropriate charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 9, 2005



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